



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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### **DISASTER FIELD OFFICE 5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273 FEMA-1411-DR-VA Commonwealth Situation Report #2 Tuesday, 7 May 2002**

#### **1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

1200 hours 6 May 2002 through 1200 hours 7 May 2002. *(new information in italics)*

#### **2. SITUATION:**

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local declarations of emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, and Shenandoah counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

*Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greensville on 28 April 2002.*

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

*Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan County and Tazewell County on 2 May 2002.*

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greensville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

*In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 5 work related injuries reported. Power has been restored to some residents in Hurley but the distribution*

*system is not fully operational. Telephone service has been partially restored. Buchanan County schools opened today. Schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.*

*State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), National Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, American Red Cross (ARC), and Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), including the clean up crews from the Presbyterians, the Mennonites, the Methodists, and Baptist Disaster Services .*

### **3. WEATHER:**

*Wednesday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Rain may be heavy at times. Highs in the mid 70s to low 80s, lows in the upper 50s. Southwest winds 10-15 mph. Chance of rain 50 percent.*

### **3. CURRENT PRIORITIES:**

- A. Provide news releases to media regarding Teleregistration and application process.
- B. Determine DRC Locations.
- C. Provide for immediate teleregistration opportunities.
- D. Continue to process PDA data.
- E. Complete FEMA-State Agreement.
- F. Prepare for visit of Region III Director.

### **4. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**

#### **A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

- *A Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) was opened at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School on Route 643, in Hurley, Virginia. Official operations commenced at 8:00 am, Tuesday, 7 May 2002. The DRC will be operational from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm daily until further notice. Residents have been referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. Teleregistration numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. There were 257 teleregistrations and 12 on paper as of COB 6 May 2002.*
- *Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Red Cross intends to provide Family Services staff in the DRC on 8 May in addition to fielding outreach service teams in the area.*
- *The Regional Health Department has administered 440 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. Additional vaccine has been ordered.*
- *Food and water is being distributed at the school.*
- *The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is helping Buchanan County find housing for victims.*
- *The Virginia Health Department continues its "boil water" advisory and is providing information on the way to restart wells.*
- *Six pallets of 1260 gals of potable water were delivered to Hurley for distribution on 6 May.*
- *Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741 in Grundy, Virginia. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.*

- *118 Individual Family Grant Program applications have been received and 224 registrations for Disaster Housing Program have been received, of which 216 have been issued for inspection.*

**B. Public Assistance (PA)**

- A formal request for federal Public Assistance has been made.
- The National Guard is providing emergency debris clearance in the Hurley area.

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

- *Two (2) VDEM Regional Coordinators are deployed in the Hurley community.*
- *A temporary Post Office for Hurley will be set up in Blakely at the Blakely Teen Center and it is scheduled to open Friday, 10 May 2002.*
- *Postal authority advises that Social Security checks saved from the flood will be distributed at that time. All mail gathering in Grundy will be distributed at the temporary facility. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.*
- *VDEM "Flood Recovery Bulletins" are being distributed throughout the area and are available at the Post Office in Grundy, Virginia.*

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area on 8 May.
- *Requested a copy of the Army Corps of Engineers study of the Buchanan County flood plains from the Huntington District.*

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

- Public Affairs press releases on the DRC opening in Hurley and the scheduling of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) workshops have been issued.
- Donations are being accepted at the disaster site in Buchanan County and are being distributed by County volunteers.

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

- Governor Mark Warner and US Senator George Allen visited disaster areas in central Virginia and were joined by State Senator Puckett and State Delegate Jackie Stump for disaster visits in Hurley and Tazewell County.

**G. Hazardous Materials:**

- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. *HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County and City of Salem have been working since the beginning of the event. They have collected: 10-20 lb. propane tanks, 10-100 lb. propane tanks, 10 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 27-65 gal. drums, 3-275 gal. heating tanks, 7-550 gal. heating tanks, 2-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, and miscellaneous pesticides. Team members are now walking the Knox and Right Fork Creeks in Hurley. A HazMat command post has been established adjacent to the DRC in Hurley.*